## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A liquid crystal display apparatus including ~~configured to have~~ a liquid crystal layer interposed between a first substrate and a second substrate, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

a first gap region with a first gap for interposition of the liquid crystal layer between the first substrate and the second substrate;

a second gap region with a second gap ~~that is~~ smaller than the first gap;

a first columnar spacer ~~that is~~ formed in the first gap region on the first substrate; and

a second columnar spacer ~~that is~~ formed in the second gap region on the first substrate,

wherein a contact area of the first columnar spacer, which contacts the first substrate, is greater than a contact area of the second columnar spacer, which contacts the first substrate.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first gap region includes a first color filter layer that mainly passes first color light, the second gap region includes a second color filter layer that mainly passes second color light, and the first color light has a wavelength ~~that is~~ greater than a wavelength of the second color light.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first substrate includes, in the first gap region, a

first color filter layer that mainly passes first color light, and includes, in the second gap region, a second color filter layer that mainly passes second color light.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first substrate includes scan lines disposed in a row direction, signal lines disposed in a column direction, switching elements disposed near intersections of the scan lines and the signal lines, and pixel electrodes ~~that are~~ connected to the switching elements and ~~are~~ disposed in a matrix.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first substrate includes a light shield layer ~~that is~~ formed in a picture-frame shape along a peripheral edge of a display region, and the first columnar spacer, the second columnar spacer and the light shield layer are formed of the same material.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first substrate includes a counter electrode ~~that is~~ common for all pixels.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A liquid crystal display apparatus including ~~configured to have~~ a liquid crystal layer interposed between a first substrate and a second substrate, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

a first gap region with a first gap for interposition of the liquid crystal layer between the first substrate and the second substrate;

a second gap region with a second gap ~~that is~~ smaller than the first gap;

a first columnar spacer ~~that is~~ formed in the first gap region on the first substrate; and

a second columnar spacer ~~that is~~ formed in the second gap region on the first substrate,

wherein a dimension ~~dimensions~~ of the first columnar spacer is greater than a dimension ~~dimensions~~ of the second columnar spacer.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 7, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first gap region includes a first color filter layer that mainly passes first color light, the second gap region includes a second color filter layer that mainly passes second color light, and the first color light has a wavelength ~~that is~~ greater than a wavelength of the second color light.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 7, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first substrate includes, in the first gap region, a first color filter layer that mainly passes first color light, and includes, in the second gap region, a second color filter layer that mainly passes second color light.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 7, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first substrate includes scan lines disposed in a row direction, signal lines disposed in a column direction, switching elements disposed near intersections of the scan lines and the signal lines, and pixel electrodes ~~that are~~ connected to the switching elements and ~~are~~ disposed in a matrix.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 7, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first substrate includes a light shield layer ~~that is~~

formed in a picture-frame shape along a peripheral edge of a display region, and the first columnar spacer, the second columnar spacer and the light shield layer are formed of the same material.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 7, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first substrate includes a counter electrode ~~that is~~ common for all pixels.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A liquid crystal display apparatus including ~~configured to have~~ a liquid crystal layer interposed between a first substrate and a second substrate, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

a first gap region with a first gap for interposition of the liquid crystal layer between the first substrate and the second substrate;

a second gap region with a second gap ~~that is~~ smaller than the first gap;

a first columnar spacer ~~that is~~ formed in the first gap region on the first substrate; and

a second columnar spacer ~~that is~~ formed in the second gap region on the first substrate,

wherein a volume of the first columnar spacer is greater than a volume of the second columnar spacer.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first gap region includes a first color filter layer that mainly passes first color light, the second gap region includes a second color filter layer that mainly passes second color light, and the first color light has a wavelength ~~that is~~ greater than a wavelength of the second color light.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first substrate includes, in the first gap region, a first color filter layer that mainly passes first color light, and includes, in the second gap region, a second color filter layer that mainly passes second color light.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first substrate includes scan lines disposed in a row direction, signal lines disposed in a column direction, switching elements disposed near intersections of the scan lines and the signal lines, and pixel electrodes ~~that are~~ connected to the switching elements and ~~are~~ disposed in a matrix.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first substrate includes a light shield layer ~~that is~~ formed in a picture-frame shape along a peripheral edge of a display region, and the first columnar spacer, the second columnar spacer and the light shield layer are formed of the same material.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first substrate includes a counter electrode ~~that is~~ common for all pixels.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a liquid crystal display apparatus including ~~configured to have~~ a liquid crystal layer interposed between a first substrate and a second substrate, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

forming a spacer material on the first substrate;

patterning the spacer material with a first cross-sectional area ~~size~~ in accordance with a first gap region that includes a first gap for interposition of the liquid crystal layer, and patterning the spacer material with a second cross-sectional area ~~size~~, which is smaller than the first cross-sectional area ~~size~~, in accordance with a second gap region that includes a second gap, which is smaller than the first gap; and

melting the spacer material that is patterned in each of the first gap region and the second gap region~~, and adjusting~~ to adjust a height of the spacer material patterned in the first gap region and a height of the spacer material patterned in the second gap region, wherein the cross-sectional area is in a plane parallel to the substrate.